

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

September 3, 1998
MAG Offices
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Lorenzo Aguirre, City of El Mirage
Skip Bingham, DES/RSA
Karin Bishop, Valley of the Sun United Way
*Gene Burns, DES/ACYF
*Tom Canasi, City of Tempe
*Sylvia Cartsonis, Northwest Valley Regional
Community Council
Tanya Collins, City of Mesa
Laura Guild, DES/CSA
Steve Wise for Kate Hanley, Tempe
Community Council
*Rosemary Ybarra Hernandez, City of
Surprise
Zona Pacheco for Gloria Hurtado, City of
Phoenix
Jeannie Jertson, Maricopa County
Jim Knaut for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area
Agency on Aging
Stuart Kent, City of Glendale

Mary Ann Lavine, Glendale Community
Council
*Stephen MacFarlane, City of Phoenix
Mary Enriquez for Doris Marshall, City of
Phoenix
Jose Mercado, DES/Aging & Adult
Administration
*Sheryl Pieper, City of Tolleson
*Esther Pineda, City of Avondale
Ed Portnoy, City of Scottsdale
Lili Schuett, Town of Gilbert
Betsy Seibert, Mesa United Way
Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix
Pat Tyrrell, City of Chandler
Betsy Buxer for Rebecca Van Marter, The
Community Forum
Martha Rozen for Dianne Wagemann,
DES/DDD

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Riann Balch, DES intern
Vince Wood, DES
Helena Whitney, Maricopa County Human Services
Lisa Takata, City of Phoenix
Carol Kratz, MAG
Suzanne Quigley, MAG

1. Call to Order

Chair Karin Bishop called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and introductions ensued.

2. Approval of February 5, 1998, Technical Committee Minutes

The motion by Pat Tyrrell, seconded by Stuart Kent, to approve the minutes of June 18, 1998 was carried unanimously.

3. Comparison of Maricopa County Needs Assessment Information and MAG Human Services Priority Problems

Carol Kratz reviewed the Maricopa County Needs Assessment information and informed the committee that she included pertinent data into the 1999-2000 problem statements. At the end of the problem statement documents she also added *potential* new problem statements for the subcommittees to choose whether to add or discard to the existing statements. Ms. Kratz asked the subcommittee to make funding recommendations today for an additional \$100,000. These numbers will need to be finalized in order to bring them to public hearing in September and October.

4. Developmental Disabilities

Suzanne Quigley provided a report on the current need and trend areas for the persons with disabilities target group. MAG staff met with over 10 representatives of providers and advocates this past August at the request of the HSTC/HSCC members who had expressed concern with their lack of hard information about the needs of persons with developmental disabilities. About 17 different need areas were identified through these interviews. The highest priority need areas were dental care, transportation, increased programming for adults living at home who are not ALTCS-eligible (such as socialization & recreation, day treatment and training and employment support services), child care, and efforts to help families/consumers have more choice and control of their funds.

Ms. Quigley also informed the committee about the changing trends in service provision for persons with developmental disabilities. The system has evolved over the last twenty years from a very closed system with state-run facilities being the only option for many families/consumers to a more open system where community-based settings were the norm. When the Family Support Bill passed in early 1990's, families and consumers began to have more service options, such as in-home living with home-based services, companion living settings, group homes, and employment with supports. Today, there is a movement among advocate groups and consumers to create a systems change which will offer greater choice, control, and flexibility for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families over the services they utilize and the management of their benefits.

Ms. Quigley asked the persons with developmental disability subcommittee to use this new information as a guide in revising the current problem statements for this target group. Staff has added *potential* new problem statements based upon the information gathered for the subcommittee to consider as well. To further educate the Committee on this target group, a panel presentation is being planned for the next meeting from DES's Division on Developmental Disabilities.

5. Update on Welfare Reform

Mr. Vince Wood, FAA Program Administrator, presented information on the number of people falling off the welfare rolls due to time limits or sanctions, and the status of the Arizona WORKS pilot program.

Caseload Averages

During FY 97-98 Arizona's TANF caseloads declined by 24%. Maricopa County, the largest region in the state, makes up 46% of the statewide caseload. Maricopa saw a 29.5% decline in overall caseloads in 97-98. There was a slight increase in family size during this time — from 2.66 to 2.69 children per family.

Cases Closed Due to Sanctions/Obtained Employment

In Maricopa County, sanctions were the cause of 62% of the closed cases. 75% of these were because of a failure to comply with jobs and 25% were sanctioned because of failure to comply with child support requirements. The statistics for those who have obtained employment in 1998 are difficult to gather because many participants are getting a job, losing it, and then obtaining another job within the same quarter. About 50% of those in the TANF program receiving employment are residents of Maricopa County. In response to a question by Ms. Kratz, Mr. Wood informed the Committee that the average wage level for those who obtain employment is \$6.20 an hour.

DES has applied for a federal grant to conduct a five-year longitudinal study on what is happening to those who are exiting the welfare rolls and those who are sanctioned. The legislature expects some information in this upcoming session, so a short-term study is being conducted right now, surveying approximately 800 families who exited the rolls in March, 400 through sanctions. They expect to have preliminary report by December.

Time Limit Reductions

In Maricopa County, 49% of the cases are affected by time limits. The sanction imposed is a reduction of \$72 from their benefits. Food stamps do not increase when cash assistance is cut because of sanctions. DES staff has noticed that many individuals have responded to the sanctions by moving in with family, friends and other relatives. Mr. Wood reported that DES is working closely with the food banks and homeless shelters to monitor any increases in services due to sanctions and time limits. The short-term study should help to find out whether the increased demand for food and shelter is caused by welfare reform, specifically answering questions of where are these new families coming from? Who are they? And why? This information will give DES a baseline of information to take to the legislature in the upcoming session.

Ms. Kratz queried how the Committee could help with the surveying process. Mr. Wood responded that DES is already working closely with the Arizona Community Action Association and all the local Community Action Programs (CAPs) will be involved. Ms. Jertson expressed concern over the possible additional costs that the CAPs would incur by participating in the data collection process. Mr. Wood responded that the preliminary information provided to the legislature later this year should hopefully spur them to provide additional dollars for evaluation purposes. Mr. Wood believes there will be notice on the federal grant for the longitudinal study by the end of this month.

Ms. Jertson asked Mr. Wood what DES was doing to gather the statistics the CAPs were currently accumulating. Mr. Wood responded that he would need to find that information out from Malena Albo.

Laura Guild informed the Committee about recent meetings with evaluation department at DES, CSA, and the City of Phoenix Human Services concerning expanding and standardizing the TANF application in order to capture the necessary baseline data by everyone in the state. Shelters could use the ANCHOR database to collect this data.

Steve Wise asked whether the information provided today in the handouts could be broken down by zip codes. Mr. Wood thought that this would take some time, but it could be done by next month.

Discussion ensued regarding questions about the impact of welfare reform on people of color. Mr. Wood reported that the numbers left on TANF have declined for Anglos, Blacks and Hispanics. Native Americans represent about 6% of those left on TANF. There are numerous reasons why many Native Americans remain on assistance, namely the serious economic development issues facing many reservations; time-limits are not instituted on reservations where the poverty level exceeds 50%; and for many of the tribes operating their own TANF programs, the work rate is lower than the regular TANF work participation rates.

Ms. Jertson questioned Mr. Wood about DES plans ask the legislature to appropriate TANF savings from this year for a specific purpose. Mr. Wood was unsure but did inform the Committee that DES was putting forward a cash assistance increase for those individuals placed in community work experiences. The Fair Labor Standards Act stipulates that those placed in community work experiences must be compensated at least the minimum wage. Compensation could be added to their cash assistance and food stamp provisions, but not in child care or medical care. In addition to wage increases for individuals involved in community work experiences, DES plans to ask the legislature for increased funding in transportation and child care.

AZ WORKS Timeline

At this point in the discussion, Mr. Wood handed out a project timeline detailing the upcoming dates and activities of the AZ WORKS pilot program. Potential bidders remain to be Maximus, EDS/Employment Solutions (AZ WORKS Partnerships) and Curtis & Associates. October 24 is the proposal submission deadline. If the federal waivers have not come in by that time for the food stamp and medicaid programs, the vendors will be required to only submit the cash assistance portion of the application. DES is prepared to administer food stamps and medicaid for the East Valley cities if the waivers are not secured. Mr. Wood had no definitive time frame for when the White House Policy Staff would be in contact about the status of the waivers.

There are two openings on the Procurement Board since Dan Duncan's and Lyn Harry's departure. At this time, the Governor has not appointed anyone to fill the vacant seats. Mr. Wood suggested that members of the Committee speak with their respective Mayors if they had any recommendations for appointments.

6. Funding Levels for SSBG Funds & Funding Recommendations by Target Group

Ms. Bishop provided an overview on the status of the SSBG funding levels. At the present time, the authorization level is set at \$2.38 billion. If this level is appropriated, Arizona will not suffer a cut in these funds as previously expected, but in fact the region may receive an additional

\$100,000 to allocate. The \$100,000 will be split proportionally among the target groups:

Adults, Children and Family:	\$49,900
Elderly:	\$21,400
Persons with Disabilities	\$14,300
Persons with Developmental Disabilities	\$14,400

At this point in the meeting, the Committee broke out into Target Group Subcommittees to determine where to allocate the additional dollars and to recommend any changes or additions to the problem statements based upon the Maricopa County Needs Assessment information as well as the new needs/trends information on the persons with development disabilities target group.

The Adults, Children & Family Subcommittee added dental care to problem statement number #1, made a small modification to problem statement # 9, and added problem statement #13 to reflect the need for access to information and referral services to individuals and families in crisis. This target group will make decisions on the \$49,900 during the October meeting.

The Elderly Subcommittee did not make any language or priority number changes to the problem statements. The additional \$21,400 was designated proportionately to Adult Day Care/Adult Health Care, Transportation and Supportive Intervention/Guidance Counseling services under problem statements number 2, 3 and 5 respectively.

Since numerous changes were needed to be made to the Persons with Developmental Disabilities problem statements, the Subcommittee decided to address these changes at the next meeting. Staff will prepare a list of the suggested changes in language and priority for the Subcommittee to review prior to the October meeting. The Subcommittee decided to allocate the additional \$14,400 in an even split for Socialization and Recreation and Transportation services under problem statement #3. For the Persons with Disabilities, no changes to language or priority were recommended. The additional \$14,300 was proportionally allocated to non-elderly Adult Day Care/Adult Day Health Care, Adaptive Aids and Devices, and Interpreter Services under problem statement number one.

7. Public Hearing on 1999-2000 Plan

During the month of September, MAG HSTC and HSCC Committees usually schedule public hearings to present and solicit comments on the human services plan. Ms. Kratz explained that because of the funding uncertainties, no formal hearings have been scheduled. Staff would like to piggyback upon existing human services related meetings in the east, central and west parts of the Valley. Ms. Kratz asked members of the Committee to provide any suggestions on potential meetings/site for the hearings. Ms. Jertson offered the Human Services Commission meeting on September 28 as a possibility, and suggested contacting the Community Action agencies for a schedule of their monthly meetings.

8. Domestic Violence Regional Plan

Ms. Kratz provided a brief overview of the status of the MAG Domestic Violence Subcommittee and its work on legislative initiatives over the last month. The Subcommittee researched and developed a list of legislative priorities, one of which has been put in resolution form and included in the League of Arizona Cities and Towns Resolution process. A final draft of the resolution was provided for review by the Committee. Many, if not all, of the cities and towns in Maricopa County will have signed-off in support of the resolution prior to the October 21 League Conference where the resolutions will be presented. Ms. Kratz also informed the Committee about her recent trip

to Austin for a Domestic Violence conference and the valuable information on best practices she received while in attendance. This information will be incorporated in the planning process for the regional plan that will get underway at the end of September.

9. Welfare to Work Transportation

Ms. Kratz discussed the status of the Welfare to Work Transportation Group that has been meeting to prepare a regional application for TEA-21, Access to Jobs and Reverse Commute funds administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation. In the first year of funding, approximately \$50 million will be spent on projects which increase the transportation options available to connect welfare recipients and low-income individuals to employment opportunities and support services. The TEA-21 legislation designates the local metropolitan planning organization as the entity responsible to select the applicants from regions with populations over 200,000 and to ensure that projects are developed within a human services - planning process. Ms. Kratz also informed the Committee about potential TEA-21 *noncompetitive* dollars for welfare to work transportation projects which may become available through the MAG Transportation Review Process.

10. Call to the Public

There were no audience members who wished to address the Committee.

11. Announcements and Suggestions

Mary Ann Lavine suggested that the HSTC invite Rich Anderson of DES to present the status of implementing Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system.

Ms. Kratz announced that a card for Karen Kurtz was being circulated for anyone to sign. Other announcements related to the Phoenix Violence Prevention Initiative presentation on September 23 from 11:45 - 1:00p.m. at ASU's Downtown Center and the 1st Annual Statewide Conference on Domestic Violence in Tucson from September 30 to October 2.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:05a.m.